

# CHS NEWS

A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

April 17, 2000

## NEWS BRIEFS

### KECU MEETING APRIL 20

The Kentucky Employees Credit Union's annual meeting will be held April 20 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Health Services Auditorium. Food will be served and door prizes awarded. All are invited. For more information call KECU at 564-5597.

### GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY

State employees get a half-day holiday on April 21 -- Good Friday.

### IMMUNIZATION WEEK

National Infant Immunization Week is April 16-22; this year's theme is "You Gave Them Life...Protect It." This week emphasizes the importance of timely infant and childhood vaccination.



### TIP OF THE WEEK

Osteoporosis is a condition in which bones break easily. About 70 percent of fractures in people over 45 are related to osteoporosis. Osteoporosis is more common in women than in men and sometimes hormone replacement therapy (HRT) can help. You can help prevent osteoporosis by doing weight-bearing exercises such as walking or lifting weights, getting 1,000-1,300 mg. of calcium a day, and not smoking.

## Early Childhood Bill Approved

The 2000 General Assembly has adjourned after passing a budget on the final day. In this and future issues of the newsletter we will examine the impact of the 2001-2002 budget and approved legislation on the Cabinet for Health Services.

The cabinet went into the session with just five bills on its agenda. These were housekeeping measures, dealing mainly with reorganization, and all passed. There were numerous bills introduced by others that affected cabinet programs.

Governor Patton's Early Childhood Development Bill made it

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through both houses of the legislature with unanimous support and has been signed by the governor. Several provisions dramatically affect cabinet programs:

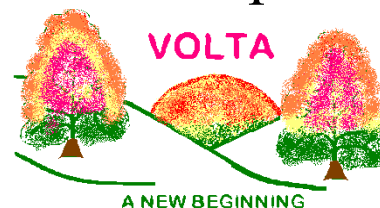
**Voluntary Home Visiting Program** will expand the HANDS program in Public Health. This program helps families learn the

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## Recovery Program Aids People

One of the Cabinet for Health Services' best kept secrets is VOLTA, a residential alcohol and drug recovery program located on the grounds of Western State Hospital in Hopkinsville. This 30-bed unit offers a 28-day non-medical treatment program for adult men and women with alcohol and other drug dependency problems. They are admitted without regard to ability to pay for services.

Twenty six years ago when VOLTA started it was one of a series of state operated units. The name originally stood for Voluntary Treatment of Alcoholism. Today, with a broader mission to serve all persons with alcohol and drug addiction, it is the only remaining state operated unit exclusively designed for individuals with substance abuse problems.



In Fiscal Year 1997, 65 percent of the program's admissions resulted in program completion. Considering the seriousness and complexity of the substance abuse, legal, mental health, and other problems that their residents have, this is a remarkable record.

John P. Zartman is the program director. For more information, call VOLTA at (270) 886-4431 ext. 408; e-mail John Zartman at [John.Zartman@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:John.Zartman@mail.state.ky.us); or write to VOLTA, P.O. Box 2200, Hopkinsville, KY 42241-2200.

### CHS Employees March for Dimes & Dollars

A festive atmosphere marked the March of Dimes WalkAmerica event at the Capitol on Friday, April 14. Walkers were treated to music, food, and the chance to make a difference in the lives of children. As of Friday, CHS had collected \$3,602 and Vital Statistics led the pack with \$1,530.

Several CHS employees took the time to walk during their lunch hour. Department for Medicaid Services employees are pictured at the top; from left, Judy Montfort, Vonda Wallace, Vicki Barber, LeChrista Finn, Anne Wolf, and Kevin Skeeters. Representatives from the Department for Public Health, pictured below, are from left, Sandy Davis, Pat Haydon, Linda Taylor (Communications), Melissa Woodrum, Ann Owens, Sheila Tarrance, Lorie Chesnut, Marie Gorham, and Barbara Murray.



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parenting skills that will aid the development of their children. Currently operating 15 pilot projects, this program will be implemented statewide through local health departments.

**Folic Acid Campaign** will promote the use of the folic acid vitamin by women of childbearing age to prevent birth defects such as spina bifida.

**Universal Newborn Hearing Screening** will test all newborns for hearing problems.

**Immunization Program for Underinsured Children** has a goal

of achieving 100% immunization coverage by age three.

**Eye Exam Prior to School Entry** will test children for vision problems.

**Quality Day Care** provisions will fund an additional 35 inspectors in the Office of Inspector General to assure that standards are being met.

The Cabinet will administer other provisions dealing with early childhood care for The Cabinet for Families and Children.

Next week's review will take a look at Supports for Community Living and smoking cessation.

### Help The Move, Get Cleaning

Spring Cleaning is taking on a new meaning for CHS employees in Frankfort.

As part of the move to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the CHR Complex, our moving advisors tell us that it's a good idea to archive or throw away as much paper as possible. It will mean there's less to move and less space will be taken up.

So start tossing those 10-year-old documents you never got around to filing.

In other move news, the rest of the Office of Aging staff is scheduled to move from the CHR Complex to Fair Oaks in mid-May. The secretary's office is also scheduled to move to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor in mid-May.

Employees are reminded that there are still hazards in the construction area and it should be avoided.

### Western State Social Workers Honored

Western State Hospital and Western State Nursing Facility honored the social services staff in March during National Social Work Month. Bill Blackwell, Tina Graves, and Melinda Reynolds were recognized for their work and efforts during the past year with **Social Worker of the Year** awards. Also, Fannie Louise Maddux, recently earned her Licensed Clinical Social Worker certification.